

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 USSS-00 /074 W

-----161004Z 059132 /11

R 160915Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5744

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, PLO AG

SUBJECT: ABOU DAOUD

REF: ALGIERS 0101

1. ABOU DAOUD CONTINUES ENJOY MEDIA SPOTLIGHT. IN JANUARY 12 PRESS CONFERENCE AT FLN HEADQUARTERS HE REPEATED THEMES OF 10 JANUARY ARRIVAL STATE MENTS (REFTEL) AND "IN NAME OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE" THANKED "PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND ALGERIAN PEOPLE... WHO HAD AGAIN PROVED THAT ALGERIA IS THE SECOND COUNTRY OF ALL PALESTINIANS AND REVOLUTIONARIES OF WORLD".

2. WESTERN STRINGER OBTAINED 14 JANUARY RECORDED AND TELEVISED INTERVIEWS WITH HIM ON BEHALF NEWSWEEK, CBC AND VISNEWS. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH AND CONTAINED STANDARD THEMES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, ABOU DAOUD STATED HE REPRESENTED EL FATAH AND WAS MEMBER OF ITS REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AS WELL AS MEMBER OF PLO. HE CLAIMED HE "NOT A TERRORIST BUT A REVOLUTIONARY" AND IN RESPONSE

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TO QUESTION AS TO WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO NEXT AFFIRMED THAT HIS "AIM IS TO CONTINUE THE REVOLUTIONARY FIGHT". HE ALSO CLAIMED HIS OFT-QUOTED JORDIANIAN TELEVISION STATEMENTS WERE ALL FABRICATIONS. NON-RESIDENT "LE MONDE" CORRESPONDENT ALSO INTERVIEWED ABOU DAOUD ON SAME DAY.

3. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED 15 JANUARY BY "ROVING EDITOR" OF "NATIONAL ENQUIRER", ABOU DAOUD STRESSED REPEATEDLY THAT FATAH AS AN ORGANIZATION IS AGAINST ALL TERRORISM, BUT THAT "INDIVIDUALS" SOMETIMES TOOK MATTERS INTO OWN HANDS. HE WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT FATAH SEEKS OUT INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING PALESTINIANS, GUILTY OF TERRORISM, TRIES THEM, AND SENTENCES THEM TO PRISON OR, IN AT LEAST TWO CASES IN PAST, TO DEATH. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON FAMILY, ABOU DAOUD INDICATED WIFE AND SIX CHILDREN (FIVE GIRLS AND ONE BOY) CONTINUE TO LIVE WITHOUT SPECIAL PROTECTION IN BEIRUT. HE SAID HE HIMSELF HAS TAKEN TO TRAVELLING WITHOUT SECURITY ESCORTS, SINCE "WE ARE ALL POTENTIAL MARTYRS TO OUR CAUSE."

4. INTERVIEWS HAVE ALL TAKEN PLACE IN ALGIERS PLO OFFICES. JOURNALISTS REPORT PLO OFFICIALS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY, APPEAR TO BE SEIZING OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE HIM TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS, BUT SECURITY PRECAUTION AND GUARDS EVIDENT.

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Message Attributes

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